

RIDE Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Programs Approval Process



The Board of Regents voted to approve the Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program Standards for Preschool and Kindergarten Programs on January 7, 2010. The new process for receiving approval is outlined below.

Application

The process for applying for RIDE Approval begins with the submission of a complete application. The new application can be downloaded at www.ride.ri.gov. Programs holding RIDE Approval on January 7, 2010, should submit a copy of their completed Self-Assessment, a corresponding Action Plan, and their new Application by June 30, 2010. Programs applying for RIDE Approval for the first time must submit a complete Application.

Facilities Site Visit

Once a program's application has been reviewed and determined to meet the applicable standards, a Facilities Site Visit will be scheduled. The purpose of this visit is to ensure compliance with the components in Standard One: Physical Facilities and Standard Two: Health and Safety.

Initial Program Visit

Once the Facilities Site Visit has been completed and compliance with the applicable standards has been determined, an Initial Program Visit will be conducted. During this visit, an on-site document review will be conducted, the program administrator will be interviewed, and an ECERS will be administered in a random sample of classrooms. An average ECERS score of 5.0 or greater, with no observed classroom score of less than 3.0, is required for RIDE Approval.

Final Program Visit

The Final Program Visit will consist of interviews with teachers and a CLASS Observation. During the 2010-2011 school year, CLASS Observation scores will not be used to determine whether or not a program should be approved. However, the program will be expected to incorporate professional development activities related to CLASS dimensions into their annual professional development plan. Programs that have demonstrated compliance with all standards will be issued Approval as a Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program.

Visit the Early Childhood section of the RIDE website (www.ride.ri.gov) for more information on ECERS and CLASS.